Taliban was prevented by the forces the Northern Alliance.

(b) Government of India continue to recognise the Government of Prof. Burhanuddin Rabbani as the legitimate government of Afghanistan.

(c) Government continue to closely follow development in Afghanistan as these have a bearing on India's security and on the peace and stability of the region, and will take all necessary steps to safeguard India's interests.

Agreement on Transit rights among India, Nepal and Bangladesh

172. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India, Nepal and Bangladesh are working towards an agreement on transit rights by air, land and waterways; and

(b) if so, by when this would become a reality?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Foreign Secretaries level Talks Between India and Pakistan

173.SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY:
SHRI ANANTRAYDEVSHANKER DAVE:
SHRI BANGARU LAXMAN:
SHRIMATI ANANDIBEN JETHABHAI PATEL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indo-Pakistan Foreign Secretaries level talks were held in the third week of June, 1997 at Islamabad;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof;

(c) the details of the discussions held and the areas of agreement and disagreement;

(d) whether the question of Sir Creek was taken up in the meeting; and

(e) if so, the decision arrived at on this issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA): (a) to (c) The second round of the resumed Foreign Secretary level talks between India and Pakistan was held in Islamabad from 19—23 June, 1997. A Joint statement was issued on 23 June, 1997 in Islamabad on the conclusion of the talks.

The two sides decided to address, *inter alia,* the following subjects: (a) peace and security, including CBMs; (b) Jammu and Kashmir; (c) Siachen; (d) Tulbul Navigation Project; (e) Sir Creek; (f) Terrorism and drug trafficking; (g) Economic and Commercial Cooperation; (h) Promotion of friendly exchanges in various fields. They also agreed to set up a mechanism, including working groups at appropriate levels, to addess all these issues in an integrated manner; the issues at (a) and (b) above will be dealt at the level of the Foreign secretaries,,.who will also coordinate and monitor the progress of all the working groups. Both sides further agreed to take all possible steps to prevent hostile propaganda and., provocative actions against each other.

(d) and (e) The discussions focusscd primarily on establishing modalities and mechanism for future talks. Sir Creek has been identified as one of the issues for future discussions.

MEA's Role to Promote Investment and Trade Flows

174. DR. MOHAN BABU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of External Affairs plays active role in wooing foreign funds for core-sectors;